

DRAFT Environmental Assessment

Proposed Spotted Dog Wildlife Management Area Land Exchange with Cross Canyon Ranch



January 2018



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1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

1.1. Proposed Action and Need

This environmental assessment (EA) evaluates a proposed land exchange on Spotted Dog Wildlife Management Area (SDWMA) between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and privately-held Cross Canyon Ranch (CCR). The exchange was proposed in order to consolidate each entity's holdings and facilitate management of both the ranch and SDWMA. Of special importance to FWP is the opportunity to create non-motorized passage for the public from the headwaters of O'Neill Creek to Spotted Dog Creek, which currently is hindered by checkerboard boundaries. The proposed exchange would facilitate public access and movement within SDWMA.

FWP is proposing to trade approximately 460 acres within SDWMA to CCR in exchange for 4 parcels of CCR land totaling approximately 438 acres. While FWP would be receiving approximately 22 fewer acres in the exchange, FWP land managers believe that this difference in the acreage balance is a more cost-efficient outcome than further subdividing parcels and surveying new boundaries to perfectly balance acreages, and the straight-line fence alignments that result from the proposed exchange boundaries will minimize maintenance costs in the long run.

All acreage traded to FWP in this proposal would become part of the larger SDWMA and would be managed for fish and wildlife habitat as well as public recreational opportunities. SDWMA is a large, intact landscape comprised of 37,877 acres (in combination with DNRC lands leased to FWP) with extensive native intermountain grasslands (rough fescue/bluebunch wheatgrass), shrub grasslands (bitterbrush/juniper/rabbitbrush), approximately 45 miles of riparian habitat along Spotted Dog, O'Neil and Trout Creeks, aspen patches, and dry Douglas-fir forests. The lands provide significant big game habitat with about 2,000 wintering elk in 2017, and yearlong habitat for antelope, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear, and other species. Native westslope cutthroat trout reside in Spotted Dog Creek and its tributaries, as well as in O'Neill and Trout Creeks. SDWMA offers opportunities for outdoor recreation including hunting, hiking, horseback riding, bird watching, etc. and is within an hour (or less) of Deer Lodge, Butte, Anaconda, Helena, and 1 ½ hours from Missoula.

1.2 Objectives of the Proposed Action

- Consolidate SDWMA holdings
- Provide the public with easier east-west passage across a portion of SDWMA.
- Reduce private inholdings on SDWMA in order to reduce public trespass issues.
- Reduce fencing costs and maintenance on the WMA.
- Reduce livestock trespass onto the WMA.

1.3. Legal Description and Location of Properties

The Spotted Dog property is situated in the western part of the state approximately 5 miles northeast of Deer Lodge, Montana and one mile south of Avon, Montana (see Figure 1). All parcels are located in Township 8N, R8W, in Powell County.



Figure 1. Location of Spotted Dog WMA

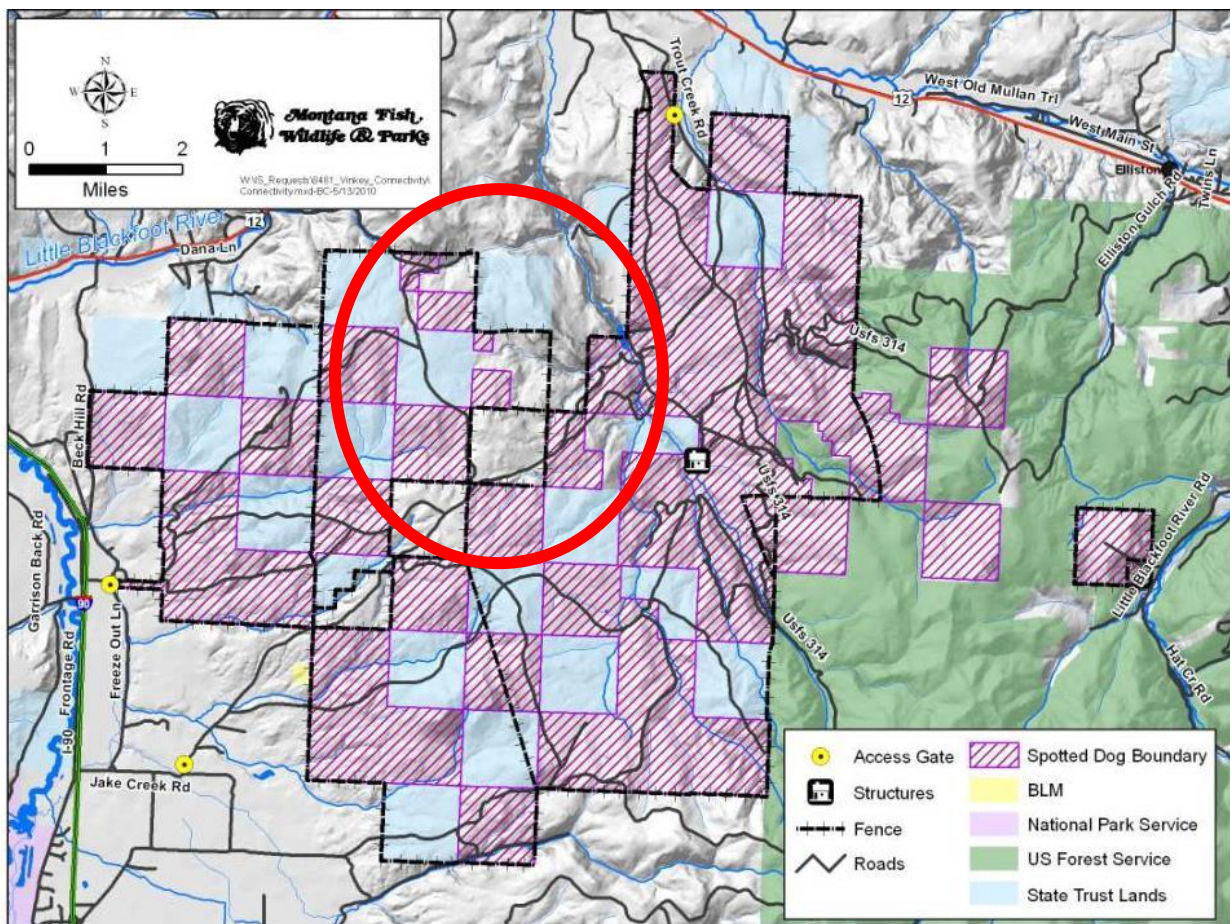


Figure 2. Map of Spotted Dog WMA under current ownership. Circled area encompasses parcels considered for exchange.

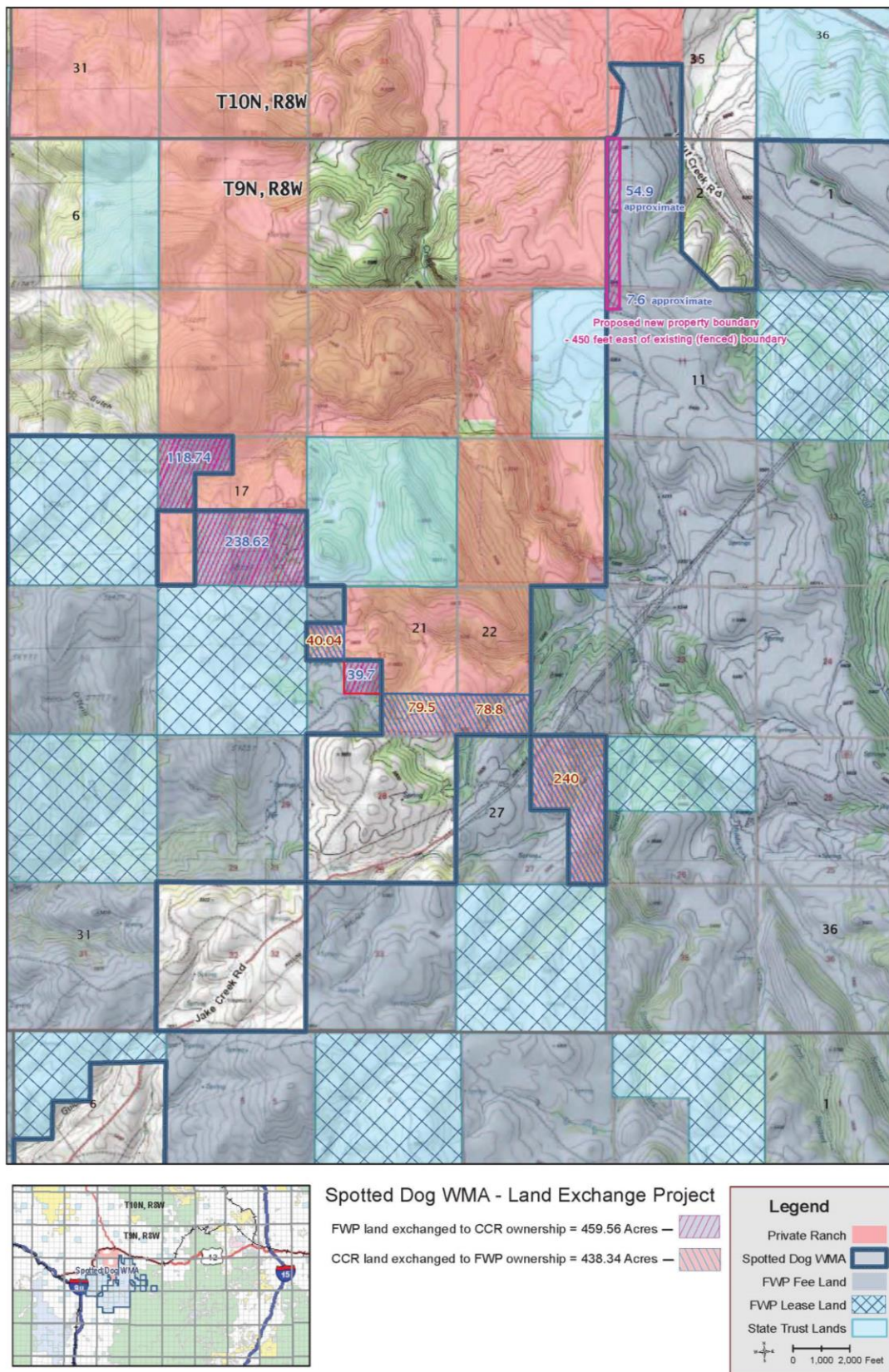


Figure 3. Map of parcels considered for exchange

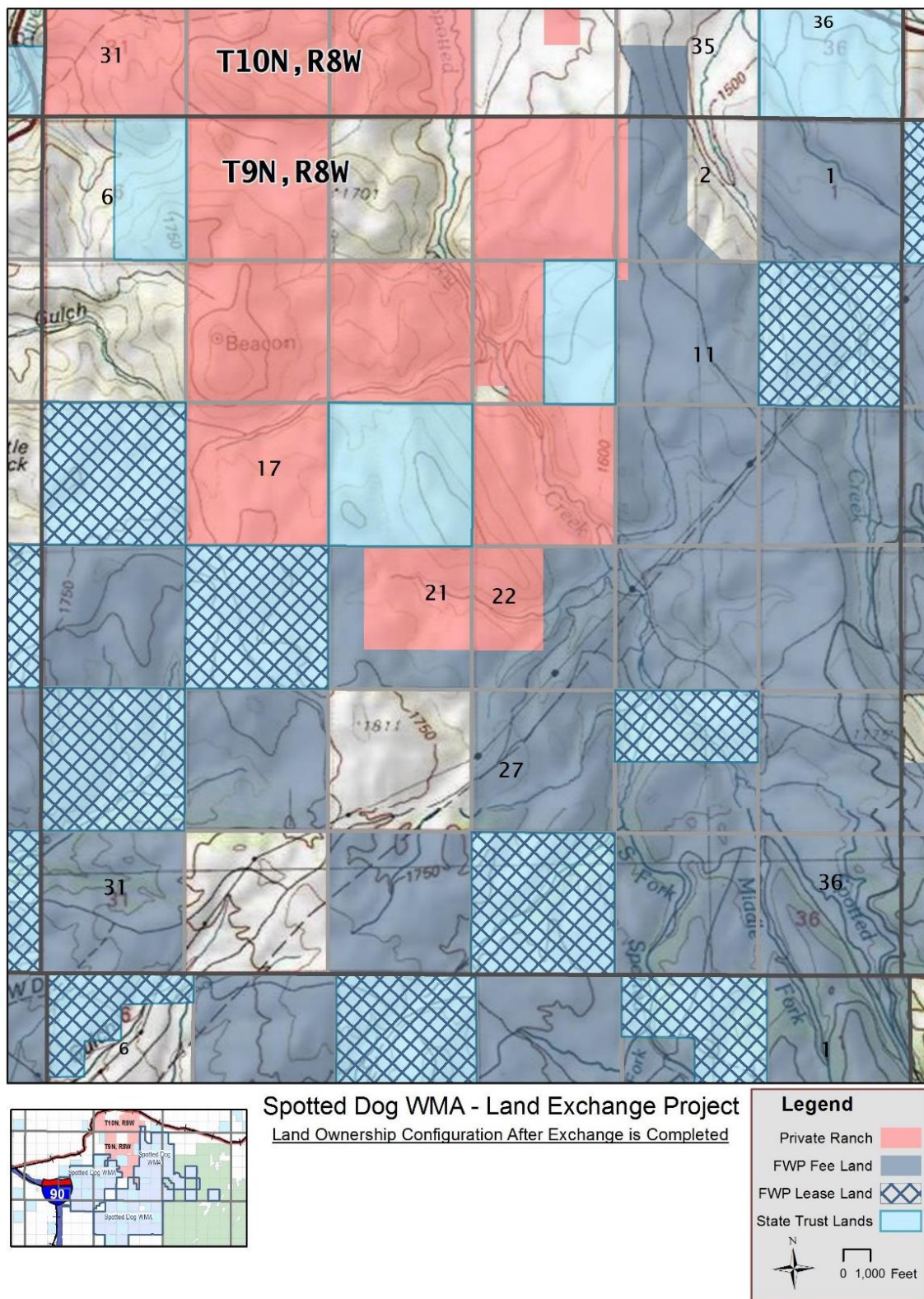


Figure 4. Map showing property boundaries if proposed exchange were completed.

FWP Parcels Considered for Exchange:Township 9 North, Range 8 West

Parcel 1) Section 2: A portion of the W½W½ lying approximately 450 feet east of existing (fenced) boundary;	54.90 acres
Parcel 2) Section 11: A portion of the NW¼NW¼ lying approximately 450 feet east of the existing (fenced) boundary;	7.60 acres
Parcel 3) Section 17: N½NW¼, SW ¼ NW¼,	118.74 acres
Parcel 4) Section 17: E½SW¼, SE¼;	238.62 acres
Parcel 5) Section 21: NE¼SW¼.	39.70 acres
<i>Constituting approximately</i>	<i>459.56 acres</i>

CCR Parcels considered for Exchange:Township 9 North, Range 8 West

Parcel 6) Section 21: SW¼NW¼,	40.04 acres
Parcel 7) Section 21: S½SE¼;	79.50 acres
Parcel 8) Section 22: S½SW¼;	78.80 acres
Parcel 9) Section 27: NE¼, E½SE¼.	240 acres
<i>Constituting approximately</i>	<i>438.34 acres</i>



Figure 5. Parcel 1, 54.9 acres, section 2. FWP to CCR. Looking south at northern end of parcel. Sloping dry grasslands.



Figure 6. Parcel 2, 7.6 acres, section 11. FWP to CCR. Looking south at northern edge of parcel, with stock pond in the center of photo.



Figure 7. Parcel 3, 118.74 acres, section 17. FWP to CCR. Parcel is mainly grasslands with some mixed terrain and forest.



Figure 8. Parcel 4, 238.62 acres, section 17. FWP to CCR. Photo taken from southwestern edge looking north/northwest. This parcel is dominated by rolling grassland hills and patches of timber.



Figure 9. Parcel 5, 39.70 acres, section 21. FWP to CCR. Open dry grasslands.



Figure 10. Parcel 6, 40.04 acres, section 21. CCR to FWP. Taken from SE corner. Open dry grasslands.



Figure 11. Parcel 7, 79.5 acres, section 21. CCR to FWP. Interior of parcel. Mixed terrain, mostly dry grassland with pockets of ponderosa pine and riparian areas.



Figure 12. Parcel 8, 78.8 acres, section 22. CCR to FWP. Standing on eastern edge of parcel looking west. Mixed terrain with scattered timber. Parcels 7 and 8 would provide desired passage for the public between the eastern and western portions of SDWMA.



Figure 13. Parcel 9, 204 acres, section 27. CCR to FWP. Standing on northern end of parcel looking south. Mixed terrain, with grasslands, ponderosa woodlands, and riparian areas.

1.4 Relevant Plans

Application to FWP Comprehensive Fish & Wildlife Management Strategy

During the last century intermountain grasslands and riparian habitats have declined significantly in Montana, as a result of conversion to croplands, noxious weed invasions, and residential development. The 175,260-acre Deer Lodge Valley is identified in the Montana's Comprehensive Fish & Wildlife Strategy (2005), as 1 of 10 Terrestrial Focus Areas in the state. The Deer Lodge Valley supports four community types of greatest conservation need (Tier 1 community types: grassland complexes, riparian & wetland, mixed shrub & grass associations, and sagebrush & salt flats) as well as 10 Tier 1 species. The abundance of large continuous tracts of intermountain grasslands is what makes the Upper Clark Fork and the Deer Lodge Valley particularly unique. Out of 10 Terrestrial Focus areas, only the Rocky Mountain Front has a similar prevalence of grasslands (60% vs. 59% in the Deer Lodge Valley).

Montana Natural Resource Damage Program

The Montana Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP) is responsible for, among other things, administering funds from a court settlement between the State of Montana and the Atlantic Richfield Company. The 1999 partial settlement earmarked about \$130 million to restore or replace the injured natural resources in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin. Funds can be used on projects that will improve:

- water, fish and wildlife resources

- public drinking water supplies
- natural resource-based recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife watching

The original purchase of the Spotted Dog property was paid for by a grant from the NRDP through the Upper Clark Fork River Basin Restoration Fund. NRDP is in full support of the proposed project, as the goals of the exchange would help support the original investment in the Spotted Dog property.

Powell County Growth Policy serves as a planning guide for local officials and citizens throughout the planning period from its adoption in 2006 up to the year 2025. It provides a long-range statement of local public policy defining guidance for managing and accommodating development within the county (Powell County, 2006).

1.5 Authority and Responsibility

FWP has the authority to purchase or otherwise acquire lands that are suitable for game, bird, fish or fur-bearing animal restoration, propagation or protection; for public hunting, fishing, or trapping areas; and for state parks and outdoor recreation per Montana state statute 87-1-209.

The proposed action constitutes a state action subject to the Montana Environmental Policy Act and other applicable state statutes. FWP is required to analyze the impacts under these requirements before rendering a recommendation for action to the FWP Commission and Board of State Land Commissioners.

2.0 ALTERNATIVES

2.1. Alternative A – Proposed Action: For FWP to enter into a land exchange with CCR

The Proposed Action consists of a land exchange by which FWP would acquire 438.34 acres of private land owned by CCR adjacent to SDWMA and 459.56 acres currently owned by FWP as part of SDWMA would be transferred to CCR.

If the exchange is approved, the new parcels would be managed as part of SDWMA. The primary management purposes of SDWMA would continue to be for wildlife habitat enhancement and public access and recreation, including hunting. At present, public non-motorized travel and passage between the headwaters of O'Neill Creek and Spotted Dog Creek on SDWMA is very difficult due to checkerboard boundaries. The proposed exchange of land would enable users of the SDWMA to cross via the southern portions of sections 21 and 22. Another benefit to the proposed action is that of reducing the cost of building and maintaining fences around the WMA. By straightening out boundary lines and eliminating two inholdings, FWP will have to build 5.75 fewer miles of fence, at a savings of \$86,250 (using most recent estimates of fencing costs at \$15,000/mile). Fence maintenance costs would also be thereby reduced. Additionally, the acquisition of these in-holdings and straightening boundary lines would reduce trespass issues, both by the public and neighboring livestock, and generally facilitate management of both the SDWMA and the CCR.

The FWP land to be transferred to CCR would be managed as part of the larger private ranch, which could include livestock grazing, hay production and recreation. CCR would be able to use that land for whatever purposes are allowed by Powell County and local planning regulations. Before being acquired by FWP in 2010, the parcels considered for exchange were primarily used for agricultural purposes so already have some two-track roads, old fences, and other signs of development. In the seven years that those parcels were under FWP ownership, those parcels were likely used for upland game bird and big game hunting, and other recreation. While public hunting opportunities would be lost on the parcels traded into private ownership, the parcels FWP would receive in exchange would offer comparable recreational opportunities, in addition to providing improved public passage within and across the WMA.

All parcels considered for exchange are classified as dry grazing land, which is valued at approximately \$600/acre in this area. At this valuation, the parcels FWP would be exchanging to CCR would be worth \$275,736; and the worth of the parcels FWP would be receiving is \$263,004, a difference of \$12,732. As the savings in fencing from the proposed exchange is estimated to be \$86,250, FWP would realize an overall financial gain of \$73,518 from the proposed action, in addition to the other benefits.

FWP has drafted an updated (2017) management plan for the property, the Executive Summary of which is attached as *Attachment A*. The complete draft management plan for SDWMA is available from FWP upon request.

2.2 Alternative B – No Action: FWP would not enter into a land exchange with CCR.

Under the No Action Alternative, FWP would not enter into a land exchange with CCR and the boundaries of both SDWMA and CCR would remain as they currently are. The public would continue to have difficulty passing between the eastern and western sides of SDWMA, thereby reducing the recreational potential and experience by the public on those lands. CCR would continue to have inholdings within SDWMA, creating public and livestock trespass issues, and boundary fencing and maintenance on the WMA would continue to be more expensive than under the proposed action.

2.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Analysis

Two other alternatives which FWP considered was for FWP to purchase a conservation easement on the Cross Canyon Ranch or to purchase some parcels outright. Those two possibilities would have allowed FWP to achieve many but not all of the project objectives, and at this time the landowner is not interested in pursuing either of these options. Lengthy negotiations between FWP and the landowner resulted in the proposed exchange as the best means to achieve the goals of CCR and SDWMA.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENT CONSEQUENCES

3.1 LAND USE

Proposed Action: The parcels acquired by FWP for inclusion in SDWMA would be managed in the same manner as the FWP lands surrounding these parcels, according to direction currently outlined in the draft (2017) management plan for SDWMA (Attachment A). Management priority would be for the benefit of native fish and wildlife resources. Public access would be provided to the extent that such access is compatible with the stewardship of soil, native vegetation, and the endemic fish and wildlife resources. Motorized public access upon SDWMA would be neither be gained or lost as an outcome of the proposed exchange.

Any mineral interests owned by CCR attached to the parcels would be transferred to FWP and vice versa. Final determination of those interests is pending. Research of the parcels proposed for exchange has showed the potential for mineral development is very low. A search of the MT Bureau of Mines and Geology Abandoned and Inactive Mines database for Powell County did not identify any old hard rock mines (gold, silver, etc.) within the exchange parcels or larger SDWMA. The database search did acknowledge four locations where pumice had been located (8N8W, Sec. 18 - 8N9N, Sec. 2 - 9N8W, Sec. 31 and 9N9W, Sec. 25) within the SDWMA but not within exchange parcels. There are no water rights attached to exchange parcels.

No Action: Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed exchange would not go through and land use on both SDWMA and CCR would continue in its present form. CCR property would likely continue to be held by that landowner and be managed as a private ranch consistent with other land use in the area.

3.2 Vegetation

Proposed Action: Under FWP management, timber harvest on exchanged property would be unlikely to occur in the near-term because of the value of these timber stands as security cover. FWP's direction would be to recruit large trees and snags in the future for their value as wildlife habitat. Although forest management would be a management priority in the long run to recruit and maintain forest stands of highest value for wildlife, there would not be an immediate need for active forest management with the possible exception of spot sanitation harvests for disease control.

When FWP acquired the Spotted Dog land in 2010, FWP prepared a noxious weed management plan that would be in accordance with 7-22-215 MCA and the statewide Montana Weed Management Plan (2008). This plan was approved by the Powell County weed board and went into effect immediately upon closing on the Spotted Dog property. Under the SDWMA weed management plan, any isolated patches of invading species are eradicated by the most efficient and effective means (e.g., hand-pulling, digging or herbicide spot treatment), depending on weed species and site limitations. FWP's priority for herbicide control of noxious weeds on the subject lands is to spray roadsides and recent logging landings, skid trails and other disturbed sites. Roadsides are inspected annually to detect and eradicate any new weed introductions before infestations become established. As an additional preventive measure, FWP confines

motorized traffic to the previously described road system and otherwise avoids disturbance of soil surfaces.

Ongoing noxious weed control requires cooperation and partnership with DNRC and neighboring private landowners, as well as with Bonneville Power Administration power line right-of-way maintenance, to ensure its effectiveness throughout the property. FWP provides an annual report on its weed management activities.

Overall, the effect on land use from the proposed exchange would be largely neutral, as parcels gained by FWP would receive additional protection but released parcels would lose those same benefits. There is probably a smaller chance of subdivision of CCR property under the proposed action, as CCR lands would be consolidated and streamlined, making them less likely to be subdivided and sold.

No Action: If FWP does not enter into a land exchange with CCR, it is likely that all proposed CCR exchange parcels would remain under CCR ownership in the near future. However, there is no guarantee of that and part or all of the CCR property could be sold at any time. The exact level of this risk is unknown since the future impacts to resources and public access would be dependent on the desires of the property's new owner (s). It is difficult to predict how new ownership would affect existing vegetation and wildlife habitat resources since actual landowner activities are unknown. There is the potential for subdivision of the property for residential development, which could negatively and irreversibly impact habitat for wildlife species. As stated earlier, that risk is probably slightly higher under the No Action Alternative than the Action Alternative.

3.3 Wildlife Species

Proposed Action: Under the Proposed Action, there would likely be little to no impact to wildlife species, either positive or negative. The parcels that FWP would acquire would likely provide enhanced wildlife habitat over the coming years, and the parcels that FWP would exchange may or may not provide less valuable habitat, for a neutral benefit.

Wildlife habitat on parcels obtained in the proposed exchange would be protected and enhanced by taking the administrative steps outlined in the SDWMA Management Plan (See *Attachment A*). Seasonal closures are expected to ensure wintering wildlife is undisturbed during winter.

No Action: If no action were taken, there would likely be little to no impact to wildlife species, either positive or negative. Active wildlife and habitat management on SDWMA parcels would continue under the SDWMA Management Plan, and land management on CCR parcels would continue to be prioritized for livestock production.

3.4 Fisheries Species and Water Resources

Proposed Action: Under the Proposed Action, there would be little impact to water resources on proposed exchange parcels or the larger SDWMA. Most of the acreage considered for exchange is comprised of dry uplands, with only a few riparian areas and few fisheries resources. The most significant water resource, a small unnamed tributary to Spotted Dog Creek, occurs on

parcel 9 on Section 27, which FWP would gain in the proposed exchange. There are no proposed changes that would result in increased discharge, changes in drainage patterns, alteration of the creeks' course (including flooding), changes in the quality or quantity of groundwater, and/or changes in water rights or other water users on any of the parcels.

As a consequence of the acquisition of SDWMA in 2010, FWP gained the ability to initiate habitat restoration projects for the benefit of imperiled aquatic species and other wildlife species. Acquisition of that reach of tributary to Spotted Dog Creek could prove valuable to future stream and fisheries restoration activities conducted by FWP. Any projects of that kind would be subject to regular MEPA analysis.

No Action Alternative: If the proposed exchange does not go through, management and impacts to water and fisheries resources on the parcels in question and the larger SDWMA would largely continue in their present state. There would be a slight potential loss of opportunity to restore stream sections on parcels FWP did not gain should such activities occur in the future.

3.5 Aesthetics and Recreation Opportunities

Proposed Action: The proposed exchange would not alter the aesthetics of the area and would largely offer the same recreational opportunities as currently exist. However, public movement within SDWMA would be enhanced as the public would be able to move between the eastern and western halves of the SDWMA more easily than they can now. One of the main reasons behind the proposed exchange was to facilitate such movement and easing access. The proposed consolidation of SDWMA property and creation of an east-west travel corridor will improve the recreational experience of SDWMA users, as well as reducing trespass on CCR property.

Scoping processes revealed concern among elk hunters about the inclusion of parcel 4 in the proposed exchange because (in their opinion) it contains some of the best elk habitat on SDWMA. FWP staff acknowledged this issue and tried to negotiate without the inclusion of that parcel but were unable to reach agreement with CCR. Ultimately, it was decided that the benefits of the proposed action outweighed the loss of that parcel.

No Action: If the proposed exchange does not go through, hunting and other recreational opportunities on SDWMA would be unchanged. SDWMA would continue to offer excellent recreational prospects but movement between the eastern and western parcels would remain difficult, sometimes forcing users to exit the SDWMA and then drive around to another access point. The current checkerboard created by CCR inholdings and kitty-corner pieces creates confusion for the public and increases the incidence of trespass.

3.6 Community and Taxes

Proposed Action: The proposed land exchange is not expected to have any direct effects to the city of Deer Lodge, Avon, or any of the surrounding community. The current and future management of the WMA is consistent with the goals of the Powell County Growth Plan:

1. to protect non-commercial timberlands in order to maintain forage production and watershed values to enhance the wildlife, scenic, and recreational qualities;
2. to encourage protection of fish and wildlife, and its habitat with emphasis on those species that contribute to the economy of Powell County;
3. to encourage and support effective noxious weed control measures;
4. to restrict development adjacent to perennial streams and in riparian areas; and
5. to promote recreational facilities to serve all segments of the population within Powell County.

The proposed exchange might deter future subdivision of CCR property but that is not guaranteed. While subdivision does increase tax revenues for the county, there are significant costs associated with providing services to ex-urban communities. Often, the costs incurred by such outlying subdivisions exceed revenues generated by taxes.

FWP is required by law to make tax payments to counties equal to the amount that a private landowner would be required to pay per Montana Code 87-1-603. FWP paid \$23,656.65 in taxes to Powell County in 2017.

No Action: If the proposed exchange does not proceed, there would be negligible effect to Powell County and surrounding communities. There might be a slight increase in the potential for subdivision of CCR property but that is difficult to predict.

3.7 Cumulative Impacts

Proposed Action: The proposed land exchange between FWP and CCR would enable easier management of SDWMA and would enhance the conservation and protection of Montana's second-largest unbroken grassland west of the Continental Divide.

The proposed project would have negligible effect on the water resources in SDWMA or the larger watershed. Potential stream restoration activities on tributaries to Spotted Dog Creek may be facilitated by FWP gaining ownership of parcel 9 as would occur in the proposed exchange.

No Action: If no action were taken, the proposed exchange would not occur and FWP would lose an opportunity to more effectively protect a large swath of increasingly rare habitat types—intermountain grasslands and shrub grasslands. As the human population in Montana's intermountain areas, these habitats are increasingly being subdivided and developed. FWP may not get this opportunity again to enhance SDWMA and further conserve this valuable wildlife habitat.

4.0 RESOURCE ISSUES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED ANALYSIS

The Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) provides for the identification and elimination from detailed study of issues which are not significant, or which have been covered by a prior environmental review, narrowing the discussion of these issues to a brief presentation of why they would not have a significant effect on the physical or human environment or providing a reference to their coverage elsewhere (ARM 12.2.434(d)). While these resources are important, FWP anticipates they would be unaffected by the proposed action or if there are any effects, those influences could be adequately mitigated and as a result, these resources were eliminated from further detailed analysis.

4.1 Soils

A query of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Soil Survey database of SDWMA identified over 100 different soil types within its boundaries ranging from clay and cobbly loams to outcrop complexes. The predominant types at over 2,000 acres each included Libeg-Monad-Copenhaver complex, Braziel-Tolbert complex, Worock gravelly loam, Braziel-Tolbert-Rock outcrop complex, Danvers clay loam, and Roy-Shawmut-Danvers complex. The remaining soil types are represented in acres of lesser amounts. Depending upon the location within the ranch, slopes ranged from zero to sixty percent. (USDA Soil Survey database, 5/7/2010)

Of the approximately 28,000 acres comprising SDWMA, less than 1% is designated as Prime Farmland and nearly 11% is designated as Farmland of Local Importance by the USDA. The bulk of the property is classified as Not Prime Farmland. The proposed exchange would likely have a neutral effect on SDWMA and CCR soils.

4.2 Air Quality

Under either alternative, changes to the ambient air quality are unlikely since neither FWP nor CCR have disclosed plans for construction or development which would affect particulate levels and air quality.

4.3 Noise and Electrical Effects

Since land use on the parcels proposed for exchange would be consistent with current use there is not expected to be any change in noise levels or electrical effects from either Alternative.

Existing electrical structures (cell phone and radio repeater towers) and pipelines would not be affected by either alternative.

4.4 Risk and Health Hazards

As part of FWP's due diligence, the Department would complete a hazardous materials survey prior to the acquisition of any parcels in the Action Alternative.

4.5 Cultural and Historical Resources

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) completed a cultural resource file search for the CCR parcels considered for exchange and reported that there are a few previously

recorded sites within the project area. Most of the sites are associated with a historic irrigation system and railroad stage route that traversed numerous sections of the property.

Additionally, SHPO's file search did locate a historic site recorded to have lithic scatter from prehistoric period within the boundaries of the Spotted Dog property. Prehistoric and historic use of Deer Lodge Valley was by many Native American tribes including: Pend d'Oreille, Shoshone, Blackfoot, Nez Perce, Salish, and Kootenai (MT Historic Preservation Office, 1995). These tribes probably used Spotted Dog property in historic times.

The proposed exchange would likely have a neutral effect on any cultural or historical resources in the area. By Montana law (22-3-433 MCA), all state agencies are required to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office on the identification and location of heritage properties on lands owned by the state that may be adversely impacted by a proposed action or development project.

5.0 NEED FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Based upon the above assessment, which has identified a very limited number of minor impacts from the proposed action, an EIS is not required and an Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of review.

6.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

6.1 Public Involvement

Public notification of the EA release and opportunities to comment will be by:

- A statewide press release.
- Two legal notices in each of these newspapers: *Anaconda Leader*, *Independent Record* (Helena), *Missoulian*, *Montana Standard* (Butte), and *Silver State Post* (Deer Lodge).
- Direct mailing (or email notification) to adjacent landowners and interested parties.
- Public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: <http://fwp.mt.gov>

Copies of this EA will be available for public review at FWP Region 2 Headquarters in Missoula and on the FWP web site. The Draft EA will also be posted on FWP's website <http://fwp.mt.gov>

FWP will hold a public hearing will be held on February 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Deer Lodge Community Center (Cottonwood Street, north of the County Courthouse) to discuss the proposal, answer questions, and take public comment.

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having few limited physical and human impacts.

6.2 Duration of Comment Period

The public comment period will extend for thirty (30) days beginning January 16, 2018. Comments must be received by FWP no later than February 14, 2018 and can be mailed to the address below:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 2 Headquarters
Attn: SDWMA Exchange
3201 Spurgin Rd.
Missoula, MT 59804

or email comments to: shrose@mt.gov

or phone comments to: 406-542-5540

6.3 Timeline of Events

January 16, 2018—Release EA for public review

February 7, 2018—Public Meeting

February 14, 2018—End of public comment

April--Fish & Wildlife Commission meeting—final approval

6.4 Offices/Programs contacted or contributing to this document:

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Park, Deer Lodge, MT

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:

Lands Bureau, Helena

Legal Bureau, Helena

Parks Division, Helena

Responsive Management Unit, Helena

Wildlife and Fisheries Division, Missoula

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Helena MT

Montana Historical Society, Helena, MT

Montana Natural Heritage Program, Helena MT

Montana Natural Resource Damage Program, Helena MT

Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena MT

Rock Creek Cattle Company, Deer Lodge, MT

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Survey Database

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wetlands Database

U.S. Forest Service, Helena MT

7.0 EA PREPARATION

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Powell County, 2006. Powell County Growth Policy. Deer Lodge, Montana.

APPENDIX

A – 2017 Draft FWP Spotted Dog Management Plan: Executive Summary¹ (separate attachment).

¹ For a full copy of this Draft management Plan, please: contact Region 2 FWP, or find it on this webpage
http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmentalAssessments/plans/pn_0021.html